

## NEW DESCRIPTIONS

### NEW SPECIES OF *AGONISCHIUS* CANDEZE (COLEOPTERA, ELATERIDAE : LUDIINAE) FROM INDIA<sup>1</sup>

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(With six text-figures)

**Key words:** new species, *Agonischius* Candèze, Elateridae, India.

Two new species of genus *Agonischius* Candèze are added to the six known species from India. These are *A. stripedius* and *A. piceus*. A key to the Indian species of *Agonischius* Candèze is provided.

#### INTRODUCTION

Genus *Agonischius* is a large group represented by 170 species, the majority of which belong to the Oriental region. Vats and Chauhan (1993) recorded 6 species from India, of which four were new species. We are adding two new Indian species to the known fauna of this genus. A key to the species from India is also provided.

Genus *Agonischius* consists of small to medium-sized beetles which are generally brilliant coloured, sometimes with metallic lustre. It is characterized by antennal segment 2 being very small; prothorax with centered margin deflected below the eyes; prosternopleural sutures double; metacoxal plates narrow with linear or emarginate inner margins, and parameres lacking subapical processes.

The type material will be deposited at Pusa National Collection, Division of Entomology, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, India.

#### KEY TO SPECIES OF *Agonischius* Candèze

1. Antenna extending beyond posterior pronotal angles ..... 2  
Antenna at the most reaching posterior pronotal angles ..... 5

2. Carinae of posterior pronotal angles equal in length ..... *cinnamomeus* Candèze  
Carinae of posterior pronotal angles unequal in length ..... 3
3. Pronotum bicoloured, black with two lateral ferruginous stripes; head as long as broad; elytra pointed at extremity ..... *stripedius* sp. nov.  
- Pronotum unicoloured, piceous or fuscous; head longer than broad; elytra rounded at extremity ..... 4
4. Body fuscous; pronotum without depression; scutellum ferruginous with black margins; posterior angles pointed; elytra less than 3x prothorax length .....  
..... *chamoliensis* Vats & Chauhan  
- Body piceous; pronotum with median longitudinal depression in its posterior 1/3; scutellum uniformly piceous; posterior angles rounded; elytra more than 3x prothorax length .....  
..... *piceus* sp. nov.
5. Elytra with metallic reflection; head broader than long ..... 6  
- Elytra without metallic reflection; head as long as broad ..... 7
6. Elytra with blue reflection; head convex; prothorax black .....  
..... *cyanoreflexus* Vats & Chauhan  
- Elytra with green reflection; head depressed; prothorax reddish with black longitudinal band .....  
..... *viridoreflexus* Vats & Chauhan
7. Carinae on posterior pronotal angles equal .....  
..... *suturalis* Candèze  
- Carinae on posterior pronotal angles unequal .....  
..... *chauhani* Vats & Chauhan.

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*Agonischius stripedius* sp. nov.

(Figs. 1, 3, 6)

**Colour:** Body ferruginous, black are: extreme anterior margin, 1/5 of posterior margin, broad lateral margins and a broad medial longitudinal band of pronotum (Fig.3); scutellum; entire lower surface of body. Antenna fuscous.

**Measurements:** Body: length 12 mm, width 2.25 mm; head: length 1 mm, width 1 mm; antenna 4.25 mm; 2nd segment 0.1 mm; 3rd segment 0.45 mm; 4th segment 0.4 mm; last segment 0.5 mm; thorax: length 2.75 mm, width 2.25 mm; elytra 7.75 mm.

**Structure:** Body width less than 0.25x its length. Head subconvex, as long as broad; antenna extending beyond posterior angle of pronotum; segment 3 longer than 2 as 9:2 and also longer than 4 as 9:8. Pronotum (Fig.3) convex with median longitudinal glabrous line in its posterior half, longer than broad as 11:9, lateral margins parallel, posterior margin entire; posterior angles rounded, bicarinate, carina short, equal, not reaching middle of pronotum; prosternal spine rounded, declined from its main axis at 20°, emarginate, gradually narrowing at base. Metacoxal plate rounded at posterior margin (Fig.6). Scutellum flat, longer than broad as 2:1, anterior margin truncate, posterior margin arcuate. Elytra convex, 2.8x prothorax length, pointed at extremities; striae distinct. Metabasitarsus shorter than following 2 joints combined as 3:4.

**Sculpture:** Head with simple dense, large, hexagonal punctation; pronotum punctate like head; propleurae with simple, dense, small, hexagonal punctation; prosternum punctate like head; elytral striae deep, distinct, rounded punctation; interstriae with fine, sparse, inconspicuous punctation.

**Pubescence:** Body covered with simple, dense, slanting, whitish yellow pubescence.

**Male genitalia:** Fig.1. Phallobase with rounded anterior margin; parameres without subapical processes, posterior end rounded;

aedeagus distinctly longer than parameres, medially slightly constricted, conical posteriorly; furcae very short, not reaching anterior margin of parameres.

**Material examined:** *Holotype:* Male, Meghalaya, Cherrapunji, 1470 m, 29.iv.1994, under light, Coll. V. Vasu. *Paratypes:* 1 female with same data as holotype. Nagaland, Singtam, 1500 m, 2 males 4.v.1995, under light, Coll. Punam.

**Distribution:** INDIA: Meghalaya, Nagaland.

**Diagnostic combinations:** Pronotum bicoloured (black with two ferruginous stripes), head as long as broad and elytra pointed at extremities are the characters which distinguish *A. stripedius* from the other species of this genus.

**Etymology:** The species name pertains to the black stripe on pronotum.

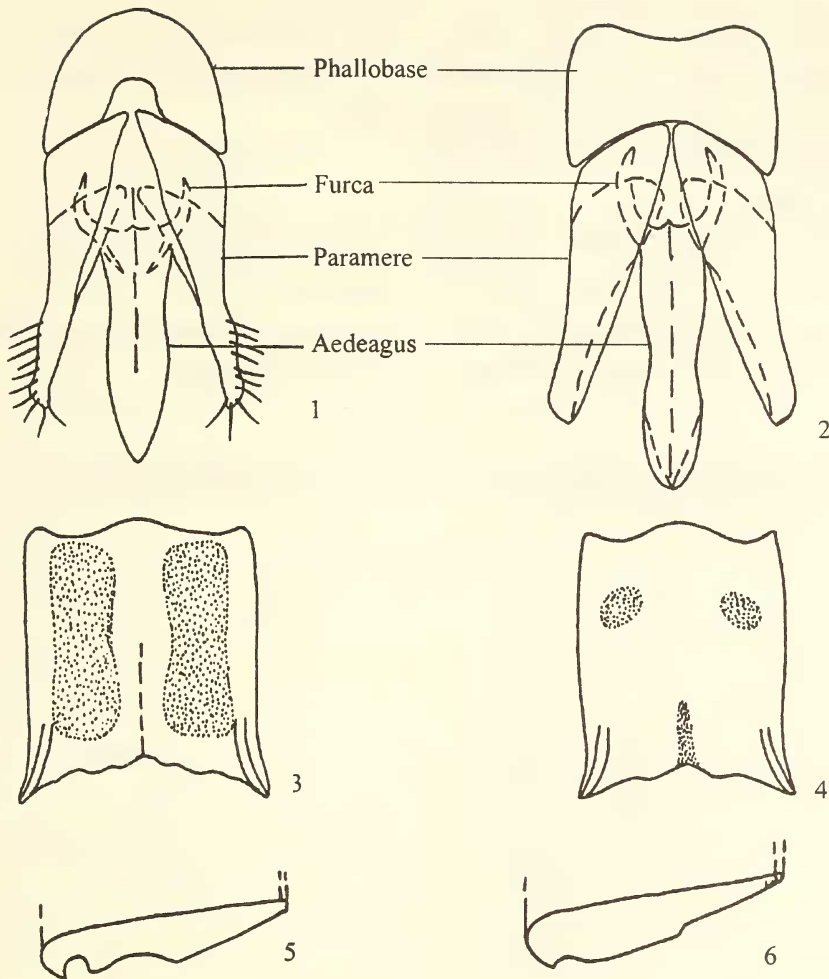
*Agonischius piceus* sp. nov.

(Figs. 2, 4, 5)

**Colour:** Body piceous including legs and antenna.

**Measurements:** Body: length 9.5 mm, width 1.8 mm; head: length 0.9 mm, width 0.7 mm; antenna 3 mm; 2nd segment 0.1 mm; 3rd segment 0.35 mm; 4th segment 0.25 mm; last segment 0.4 mm; thorax: length 2 mm, width 1.8 mm; elytra 6.25 mm.

**Structure:** Body width less than 0.25x its length. Head flat, longer than broad as 9:7; antenna extending beyond posterior angle of pronotum; segment 3 longer than 2 as 7:2 and also longer than 4 as 7:5. Mandible dentate. Pronotum (Fig. 4) convex with median longitudinal shallow depression in its posterior one-third and a shallow, oval fovea one on each side of median line, longer than broad as 10:9, lateral margins subconvex; posterior angles long, rounded, bicarinate, carinae equal, short, not reaching middle of pronotum; prosternal spine rounded, declined from its main axis at 35°, gradually narrowing at base. Metasternum truncate between mesocoxae. Metacoxal plate angular at posterior margin (Fig. 5). Scutellum



Figs. 1-2. Lancet: 1. *Agonischius stripedus*, 2. *A. piceus*; Figs. 3-4. Pronotum: 3. *A. stripedus*, 4. *A. piceus*; Figs. 5-6. Metacoxal plate: 5. *A. piceus*, 6. *A. stripedus*.

flat, longer than broad as 3:2, anterior margin rounded, posterior margin arcuate. Elytra convex, 3.12x prothorax length, rounded at extremities; striae distinct. Metabasitarsus shorter than following 2 joints combined as 5:6.

**Sculpture:** Head with simple, dense, small, hexagonal punctation; pronotum and propleurae punctate like head; prosternum with simple, moderate, small, rounded punctation; elytral striae with deep, distinct, small, oval punctation;

interstriae with sparse, fine, inconspicuous punctation.

**Pubescence:** Body covered with simple, dense, slanting, brownish yellow pubescence.

**Male genitalia:** Fig. 2. Phallobase with concave anterior margin; parameres without subapical processes, with posterior ends rounded; aedeagus distinctly longer than parameres, tubular, uniformly thick with rounded tip except slight medial constriction; furcae short, not

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reaching anterior margin of parameres.

**Material examined:** *Holotype*: Male, Manipur, Ukhrul, 1700 m, 15.vi.1994, ex. forest vegetation, Coll. V. Vasu. *Paratypes*: 1 female, same data as holotype; 1 male, 1 female, Nagaland, Satakha, 1500 m, 12.v.1994, under light, Coll. Punam.

**Distribution:** INDIA: Manipur, Nagaland.

**Diagnostic combinations:** *A. piceus* is distinguished from *A. chamoliensis* by: body piceous (fuscous in latter), pronotum medially depressed (not depressed in latter), posterior

angles rounded (pointed in latter) and elytra more than 3x prothorax length (less than 3x in latter).

**Etymology:** Species name pertains to body colour.

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REFERENCE

VATS, L.K. & R.L. CHAUHAN (1993): Species of *Agonischius* Candeze from North India (Elateridae: Coleoptera). *Res. Bull. Panjab Univ.* 43 (i-iv): 143-150.

